

## Correspondence.

## WHIFFS FROM MY OLD CAMP-PIPE.

BY A JOHNNY REB.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

It was in January, 1863, that our regiment (the 26th North Carolina) was encamped a few miles below Magnolia, N. C.

An unusually heavy snow for that latitude had fallen—the men were poorly provided with tents and clothing, and desertions were becoming alarmingly frequent. Col. Burgwyn, deeply chagrined and mortified that the proud name of his magnificent regiment should thus be sullied, sternly resolved "to put a stop to it, and I will make an example of the first one that is caught," said he in a moment of excitement. That night three men deserted. The next day, one of them, an illiterate, harmless kind of fellow, who had been enlisted under the conscript act, was caught and brought back. True to his word, Col. B. applied for a drum-head court martial and it was organized and the man tried, and condemned to be shot on the next day at 10:30 a. m.

That evening the regiments of the whole command were brought out on dress-parade, when, in accordance with the requirements of the Army regulations, the specifications and charges against the doomed man, together with the finding of the court, were read. Then followed an order from General Headquarters that all the troops in the command should be mustered in an open field (which was specified) to witness the execution, at 10:30 a. m., the next day.

A subordinate officer, Lieut. P. (who happened to know something of the poor fellow and his family, and of facts, which, if they had been admissible, under the law, would have gone far, before the court, in mitigating his crime) felt it his duty to appear before the Colonel and intercede for him. At first the Colonel was inexorable, but, after hearing a full statement from the Lieutenant, relented. "Will you put your name to a petition for his pardon if the court will?" asked the Lieutenant. "Yes," said the Colonel rather reluctantly, "but," continued he, "your efforts to save him are unavailing, for the officers of the court are now with their different regiments throughout the camp and are several miles from the General's headquarters. The execution is to take place to-morrow morning at half past ten and you cannot possibly get the papers all arranged and get them to the General in time to arrest the proceeding." "Will you permit me to ride one of your horses to Col. Marshall's quarters to-morrow morning and see what may be done?" asked the Lieutenant. "Certainly and with pleasure," said the Colonel. "you may ride 'Black Hawk'."

The Colonel ordered Kinchen, his faithful old servant, to arrange his bunk and the Lieutenant bade him good night and went to his little "fly" but not to sleep, until he had written the petition and arranged the details of the effort upon which hung the life of a man whom he felt deserved pity rather than death. Next morning he mounted the superb and spirited Black Hawk, while yet the camp was silent in sleep, and a brisk gallop brought him to the quarters of Col. Marshall just as the sun began to peep up from the eastern horizon. Fortunately the Colonel was up and more fortunate still, a majority of the officers of the court were on hand in response to an invitation of Col. Marshall to take breakfast with him. The Lieutenant wasted no moments or words in making known the object of his visit. Col. M. spread the paper on a box in front of him with great deliberation, while an air of serious reflection settled on his fine face as he hurriedly ran over its contents. Looking up, he said earnestly, "Lieutenant, does Col. Burgwyn say he will sign this paper if we will?" "Yes," said the Lieutenant, "and after hearing the facts said he would gladly do so."

"Gentlemen," addressing his brother officers, who by this time had gathered around in deep interest—"listen to this," and he read the petition. "What say you?" "If you and Col. Burgwyn put your names to it we will," they responded. Col. Marshall opened the box, from which he took his ink and pen and

silently put his name to the paper—the others followed.

Expressions of pleasure at this unexpected turn in affairs were hurriedly exchanged, and the noble Black Hawk seemed to appreciate the importance of the situation and to catch the nervous excitement of his rider. He was given a "free rein" and nobly and splendidly did he respond to it, for soon he stood at the door of his master's tent, his magnificent frame enveloped in steam and quivering with excitement. "What luck Lieutenant?" asked Col. Burgwyn. "It is all right I am happy to say. I found Col. Marshall, the President of the court, and all the members at his quarters, except one, and they all signed it readily and cheerfully," said the Lieutenant as he handed the Colonel the paper. "Take a seat," said the Colonel as he took up his pen, and turning to the Lieutenant said, "Lieutenant, I appreciate your course in this matter and commend you for it, and I am very glad indeed that you interested yourself in behalf of this poor, foolish fellow and gave me the facts in his case, else he certainly would have been shot to-day, for I am determined to put a stop to desertion in my regiment. If this will teach the men the lesson and the man's life can be spared, it will be a happy consummation." "But"—and here he quickly drew out his watch—"it is now within a few minutes of eight and it is nearly three miles to Magnolia, and you know that this paper must go to Gen. French." "True," said the Lieutenant, "and will you let the Orderly have your other horse and take it to Gen. French?" "Certainly," said he, and calling out in his quick, sharp voice said, "Dowd! saddle 'Gray Eagle' and report here quickly." While Dowd (Johnnie Dowd, now of Durham) was saddling "Gray Eagle" the Lieutenant left the Colonel with the paper and walked up the road in the direction of Magnolia. Dowd, with the paper in hand, soon dashed up and as he passed the Lieutenant admonished him to make all possible speed, as he was on an errand of very great importance.

A few minutes after nine Orderly Dowd returned, entirely ignorant of course of the object of his hurried ride, for it was a soldier's duty simply to obey orders. Col. B. and the Lieutenant were the only ones of the regiment who knew the real meaning of this mysterious hurrying to and fro, and they of course had no means of divining what the decision of Gen. French would be.

The officer and the guard of six men, who were to do the deadly work, had been detailed. At 9:45, sharp, the "long roll" sounded. The regiment was formed, a guard detailed to escort the prisoner, who was placed in an ambulance, and soon all the regiments had reached the field and as they arrived were given their positions so as to form three sides of a square. The prisoner was marched to a position in the centre, and the officer and six men took their position in front of him. All the regiments were in position except the 11th North Carolina (the "old 1st"), but soon it filed into the field, with its splendid band, playing in gayest strains, "Wait for the wagon," at the head of the column, while the tall and martial figure of its noble commander, Col. Leventhorpe, led the way. Soon the troops were all in line and standing at a "parade-rest." The moments seemed to hang heavily, as all knew that the Adjutant General must appear before the execution. But we were not to wait long, for he dashed into the field at a full gallop—dismounted and approached the prisoner and guard. The prisoner, who since starting from camp appeared more dead than alive, now became almost unnerved and had to be supported by a man on either side. The Adjutant read the charges and specifications and the finding of the court and the order for the execution. It was a moment of profoundest interest! The prisoner was now standing face to face with death. And such a death! The guard were summoning their nerve for the terrible work before them—the thousands of troops in line stood as silent as death and as immovable as a rock wall. The officers of the court, who had signed the petition, Col. Burgwyn and the Lieutenant were the only ones in all the vast throng who knew anything of the existence of such a paper, but they were in great suspense. What had been the decision of the Commanding General? Did the Adjutant have any other

orders to read? He drew another paper from his pocket. Raising his voice, slightly higher, he read in a clear and distinct tone—the pardon!

Quickly, as by an electrical thrill, the scene is changed. The man's life was spared but he seemed scarcely able to realize it. The tramp of the soldiers seemed to be lighter and quicker, and the inspiring airs of the various bands seemed to sound more gay and cheerful as they returned to their camps.

Four years after, I sat and talked with one of the officers of the company to which this pardoned man belonged. He had an empty sleeve pinned to the lapel of his coat. He had left an arm at Gettysburg. His face glowed with animation, and his eye burned with the old fire of battle as he spoke of the splendid but fruitless charge of Pettigrew's brigade on that field of slaughter. He told of the superb bearing of the noble-hearted and gallant Col. Burgwyn, who fell with the colors of his regiment in his hand—how it was caught up and cut down, again and again, until fourteen of those heroic men had fallen with it—how, in the face of that avalanche of lead and iron, this magnificent regiment lost five hundred and forty-nine men—"and," said he, "you no doubt remember the fellow who was condemned to be shot at Magnolia for desertion. He was by my side in all that murderous charge, and fought like a lion, but was shot dead within ten feet of the angle on the height."

## THE COWS AT THIS SEASON.

As the autumn comes on the pastures will begin to fall off and the amount of green food obtained by the cows be decreased. It is true that as the pasturage is lessened, the amount of food allowed at the barn may be increased, but what the dairyman should do is to gradually change the diet so as not to allow a complete change to occur. As the green food diminishes in the fields a small proportion should be allowed when the cows come up at night, in the shape of turnips or carrots or ensilage, if it is made a part of the food, but this is done, not in order to assist the cows, but to gradually accustom them to a change from the pasture. Quite a number of dairymen keep their cows on pasture until the last day upon which they can get a bite, and when they are brought up and fed at the barn, no matter how much may be allowed, the cows suddenly fall off in milk. When a cow once shrinks in milk she cannot easily be made to return to her original yield, for nothing is more changeable than a cow giving milk, and as the summer grasses will soon be gone the dairyman should begin gradually to feed some kind of succulent material at the barn, in order to prevent any radical change. At this season there are a great many influences at work against the cows. She has to contend against flies and other insects, and as the supply of grass decreases she must travel over a greater distance of ground to secure it, and she necessarily needs careful management until cooler weather.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

## NOTES ABOUT ENSILAGE.

Dr. R. H. Lewis has obligingly from time to time given the *News and Observer*, through interviews, interesting and valuable information about silos and ensilage. Mr. J. H. Davis, the manager of his Cloverdale farm, kindly furnishes the following as the cost of forty tons of peavine ensilage, put in a silo below ground; vines uncut. The items of cost are as follows:

Plowing 7 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre, \$8.75; 14 bushels of black peas at 90 cents per bushel, \$12.60; harrowing 7 acres in peas broadcast, \$1.50; labor of sowing peas broadcast, 75 cents; rolling, \$1; hauling 100 two-horse loads, mowing, filling, covering and weighting silo, \$27.25. Total cost of 40 tons pea-vine ensilage, \$51.85. There were two mowings of fine clover cut from this same seven acres before the peas were sown in July. Farm hands, mules, &c., are all charged in the above at the same rates paid all extra labor hired. Peas were sown July 8, mowed September 16. Dr. Lewis is now filling a silo above ground with cut millo maize and peavines. It has 75 tons capacity. He has put up 340 tons of peas, corn and millo ensilage this summer up to date at less than \$1.50 per ton, cut up.—*Raleigh News and Observer.*

## Farm Notes.

## PROTECTION FOR GRANARIES.

It is not good policy for farmers to keep grain long enough to have it endangered by insects. But if any are feared an open vessel filled with bisulphide of carbon placed on top of the grain will keep them off.

## HORSES' FEET IN SUMMER.

Horses kept in stable during the Summer are apt to have diseased feet. For this reason turning out to pasture has been advocated. Where this is impracticable a bed of sods from the roadside will answer every purpose. It will keep the liquid manure from wasting, and what dries and sets into the hair when brushed out will leave it in good condition. It is especially good for horses whose work is on hard city pavements.

## SUPER-PHOSPHATE FOR TURNIPS.

The success of English farmers in growing turnips by the free use of super phosphate is the more remarkable from the fact that turnips do not contain a large percentage of this plant food. But what they do have is essential. The explanation is that the turnip root does not travel far in search of its food, and phosphate being usually locked up in the soil, the particles in contact with the roots do not contain enough for even the small proportion that this crop demands.

## SUPPLEMENTING CORN FODDER.

Corn, even when ripe, is not a full ration. It lacks nitrogenous and flesh and bone-forming material though excellent for fattening. Corn fodder is especially liable to be deficient, as it is apt to be too watery, from being grown in the shade. One of the best supplementary feeds with corn fodder is wheat bran. It can usually be bought very cheaply at this season of the year, and is even better as a supplementary feed for cows than in Winter, when it is more generally fed and its price is higher.

## PIGS AND CLOVER.

"As happy as a pig in clover," has passed into a proverb for an abundance of the best feed. In fact, however, though clover is good for pigs, it is poor dependence for main feed. The pig's stomach is not capacious, and to do its best it needs more concentrated food than most other stock. In the pen, however, the pig's feed is apt to be too concentrated and too heating. With a run at clover, enough will be eaten to properly distend the stomach and enable the animal to better digest the grain than it could if fed nothing else.

## MAKING CORN CRIBS RAT PROOF.

Rats and mice are very destructive in corn cribs. They may be kept out forever by elevating the crib on posts thirty-six inches from the ground and capped with a tin pan. When the mice try to run up the post they meet the projecting tin and can go no further. If care is taken never to bring any mice in wagons with the corn the crib may be kept clear of vermin indefinitely. Of course the crib should be built at sufficient distance from other buildings, trees or fences on which mice might climb and then jump on the side of the crib.

## MAKE THE FIELDS LARGER.

Farmers in the older sections of the country have not found the many interior fences much more profit than damage. Very often we have seen two fields in hoed crops side by side with a fence between which if removed, would allow teams and cultivators to go from the outer edge of one to the farther part of the other. In such case the land wasted by being used as a fence row is the smallest part of the loss. On many farms the crops that could be grown on land occupied by needless fences would more than pay the taxes, and with less labor than now.

## HEIFERS NOT PROFITABLE.

A heifer is reckoned equal to half a cow, but she is not worth for immediate use half so much as a cow equally good proportionably and fully matured. Their milk is not equal in richness to that of a fully-grown cow, as they use some proportion of its nutrition in building up their own growth. Then the longer time to get the smaller quantity of milk they give is another serious item. While the teats are short, milking has to be done with the thumb and finger, and

slowly. They are not so likely to be stripped so clean by careless milkers, especially if they are restless and fidgety. Still a heifer carefully managed is all the time growing in value, while at least paying her way. She is more profitable to keep than an old cow.

## EXHAUSTIVE WEEDS.

Some kinds of weeds exhaust fertility much faster than others. Many will grow on land too poor for any more valuable crop, and in such case can hardly be considered weeds. Their widely branching roots reach out and save the plant food that might otherwise be lost. But there are other weeds that only grow in rich soil and that take just the kind of plant food which is scarcest and most needed for crops. Pigweed is one of these. So is chick-weed, sometimes also called pigweed. These abound in nitrogenous matter and are excellent for either pigs or milch cows, though not worth specially growing or cultivating for this purpose.

## CROSS BREEDING PIGS.

When a thoroughbred boar of any kind is bred to a good native sow with large frame and vigorous constitution the progeny will often be superior for fattening to the thoroughbred. In the first place the large native sow will probably be a better mother, and a better milkier than the thoroughbred. This will help the pigs before and after birth. Plenty of rich food from the dam gives the pigs a start when other feeding is not practicable. But if this cross breeding is continued without thoroughbreds on one side or the other the litters of pigs will show a motley appearance. Some will be nearly equal to the best, while others will take after the opposite side and be inferior.

## HOLSTEIN MILK.

A correspondent of the *Breeder's Gazette* upon the subject of the peculiarities of Holstein milk says: It takes the cream longer to rise than it does from the milk of other breeds.

Holstein milk is more dense and does not sour as soon as other milks; hence this quality is particularly valuable to the milkman and cheese manufacturer.

Holstein milk is remarkably rich in caseine, the cheese basis; hence for the production of cheese it has no equal.

Holstein milk is rich, and has a good body even after it has been skimmed.

The correspondent concludes as follows:

"Some of the experiments and comparisons as to the milk of the Holstein cows reported by so-called experts are misrepresentations and unworthy of belief. There are a few cows in every breed whose milk is not as rich in butter; in fact the milk from some cows will scarcely produce butter. Now, for men who are interested in other cattle to take such Holstein cows as are representatives of this breed, and then test them with the best specimens of other breeds, and report the results in downright dishonesty and a well-devised plan to deceive those who are not informed or in a shape to inform themselves. By actual and repeated tests during the summer months of whole herds of Holstein cows, twenty-five pounds of milk have made one pound of butter. In November, twenty pounds of milk, on an average, will make one pound of butter. There are many individual Holstein cows whose milk is so rich in butter that sixteen to eighteen pounds of milk will produce a pound of butter. The writer has owned such. The famous cow Echo, the deepest milker on record, owned by Mr. Stephens of New York, produced in one year 23,775 pounds of milk, was fed for milk, and not for butter; and yet her owner informed the writer that on an average for the whole year, in his judgment, twenty-five pounds of milk would produce a pound of butter and if she had been fed for a butter record her milk would have been much richer."

The new material for unsinkable apparel has been further tested, with success, in London. This material is composed of threads of cork interwoven with cotton, silk or woollen, machinery which slices the cork to the required thickness forming a part of the invention. The garments which are made in this manner have the same appearance as ordinary clothing, and possess remarkable buoyancy in water.